SUKEDACHI NINE
助太刀09

OOOM
VROOOM
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

MIRROR:16 "JUSTICE AND EVIL"

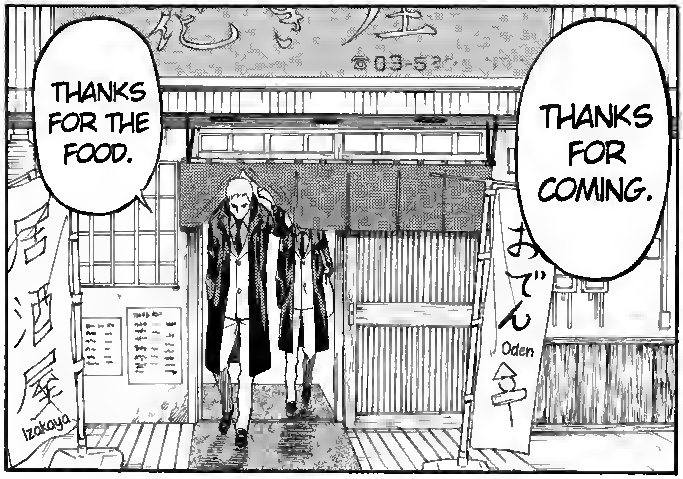
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
NORTHERN DISTRICT...? A LOT OF THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING THERE RECENTLY.
A MAN'S BODY WAS FOUND IN MARUTAKA-BASHI IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.
NEXT UP...
SHING
THOKK
...THE POLICE HAVE DETERMINED THIS TO BE A HOMICIDE, AND HAVE LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING AS TO WHAT THE MURDER WEAPON IS.
JUDGING BY THE STAB WOUND ON THE MAN'S CHEST...
SWIPE
TOSS

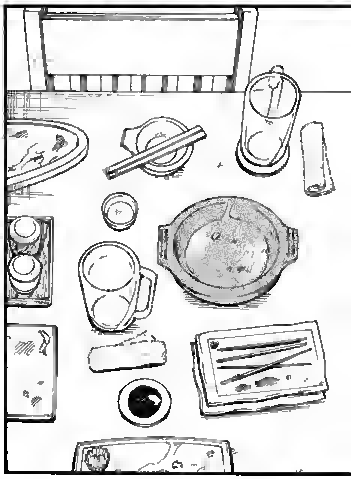
DRIP
.....
.....
SCHLRP
WHAT'S WRONG, YUUJI?

DON'T TELL ME...
SCHLRP
DOES THAT FINGER HURT?

.....

Ara-bou
¥3000


THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
THANKS FOR COMING.
おでん
Oden
居酒屋
Izakaya

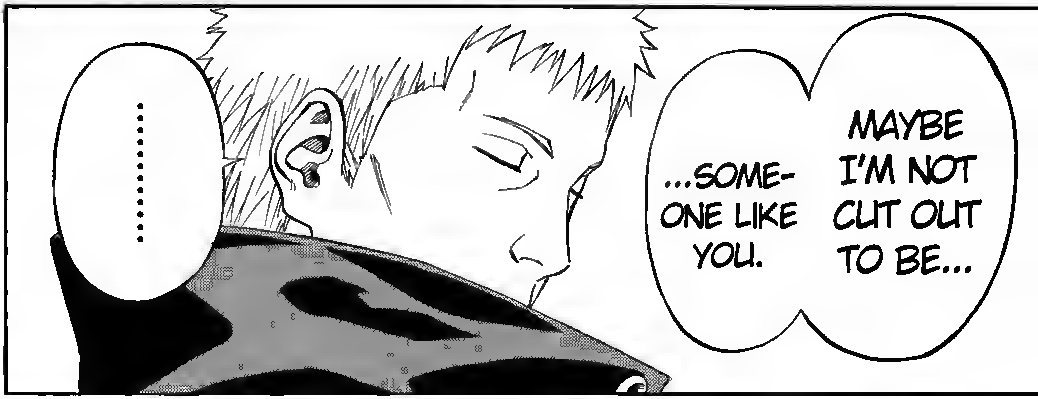


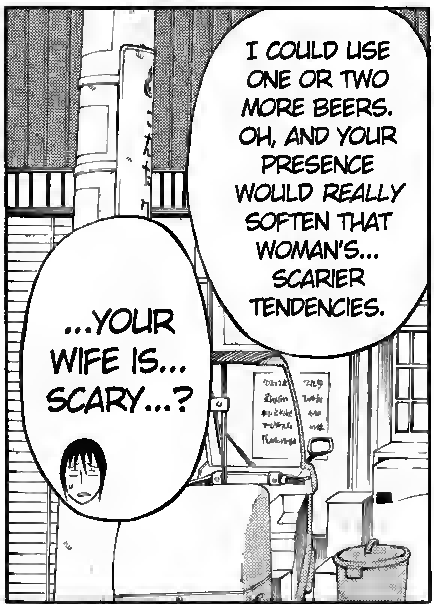
EATING OUT ALONE IS... WELL...
...IT'S PRETTY PATHETIC, NO?
……

スナック ぱぴおん
Snack PAPILLON
THANKS FOR INVITING ME TO DINNER.
NO PROBLEM. ACTUALLY, I'M IN THE DOGHOUSE WITH MY WIFE, SO...
...THERE'S PROBABLY NO DINNER FOR ME WHEN I GET HOME.

I'M NOT MUCH OF A DINNER PARTNER...
I'M SORRY, SIR.
SAKURA-DA-SAN...
!?
.....
I MEAN... I SHOULD'VE OFFERED SOME KIND OF ENCOURAGE-MENT, AND YET...
...IT'S FRUSTRATING, FEELING LIKE I COULDN'T BE OF MORE HELP.
NO NO NO! I DIDN'T MEAN THAT!
WELL, IF INVITING YOU OUT IS A SUCH BOTHER TO YOU...
AFTER WHAT YOU SAID BACK THEN...
...I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND MY FOOTING AGAIN.
AND YET MY MIND KEEPS TAKING ME SOMEWHERE UNPLEASANT...

IT'S KINDA PATHETIC, DON'T YOU THINK? I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ROOKIES' COACH...
...AND YET HERE I AM...

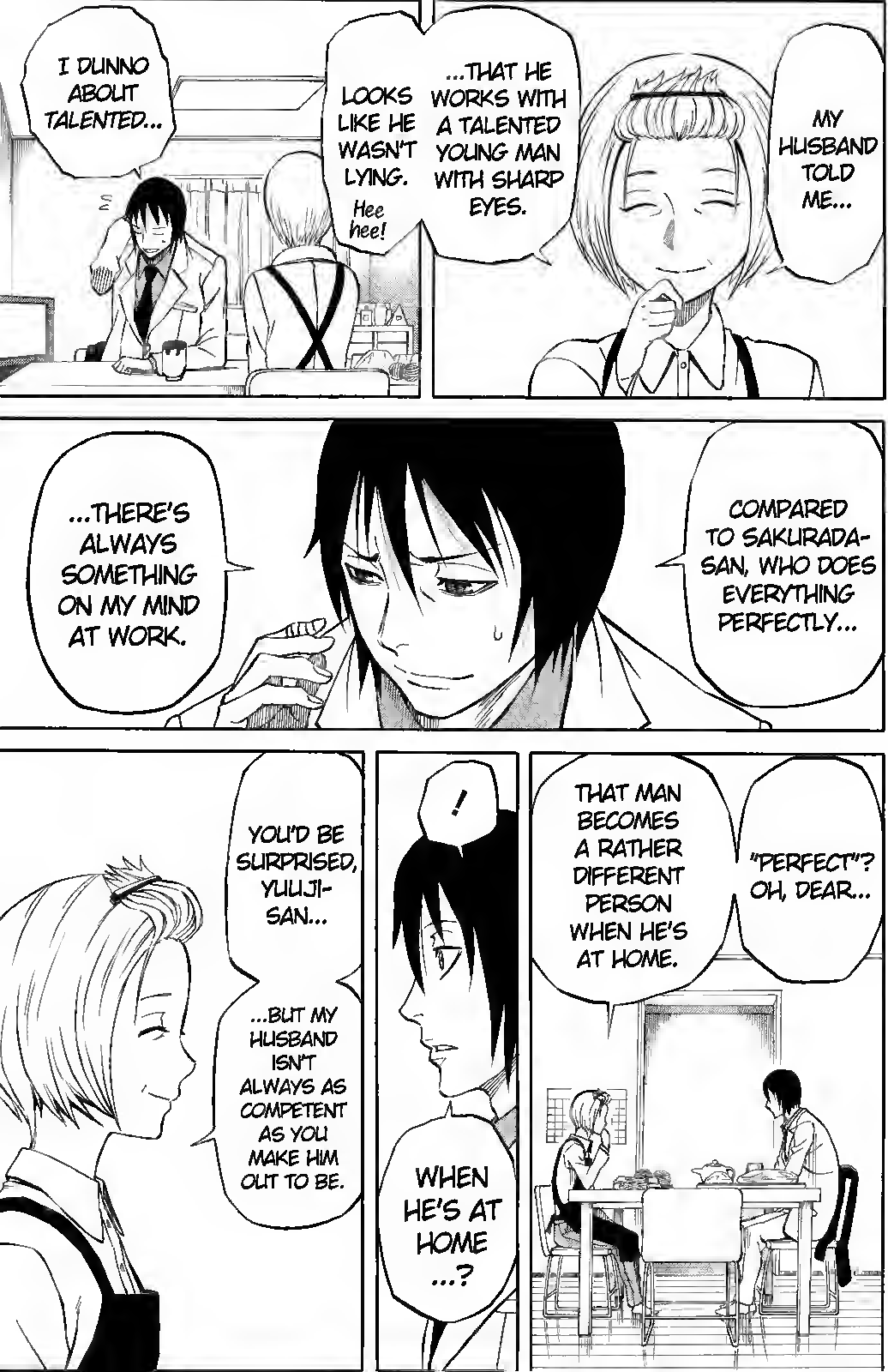

MAYBE I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE...
...SOME-ONE LIKE YOU.
.....

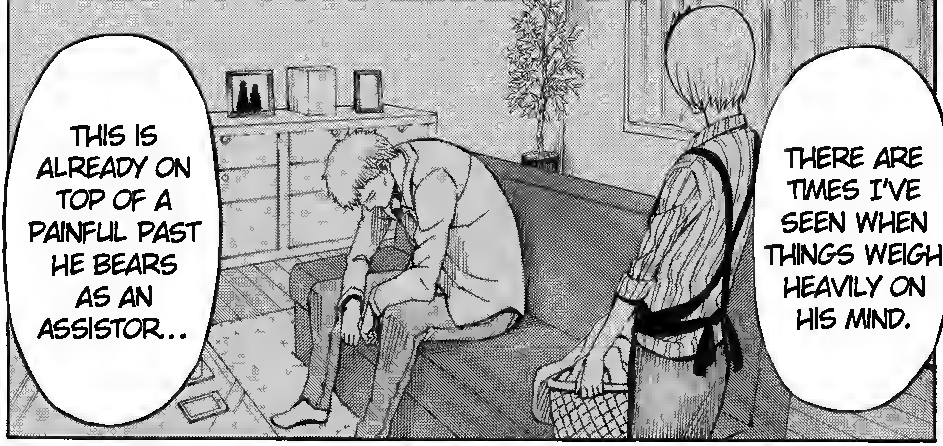

I COULD USE ONE OR TWO MORE BEERS. OH, AND YOUR PRESENCE WOULD REALLY SOFTEN THAT WOMAN'S... SCARIER TENDENCIES.
...YOUR WIFE IS... SCARY...?

EH ?!
OKAY...
B-but...
...WANNA STOP BY MY HOUSE FOR A BIT, THEN?

H-HONEY, I'M HOME.
ガチャ
GCHAK
HIS WIFE IS... SCARY ...?
GOODNESS, WE HAVE A GUEST? THIS IS A RARE EVENT.
GOOD EVENING, AND A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
HIS WIFE IS... SCARY ...?!
GUESS NOT...
G-GOOD EVENING, MA'AM. I KNOW IT'S LATE AND ALL...
Phew!
HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE.
THANK YOU, MA'AM.

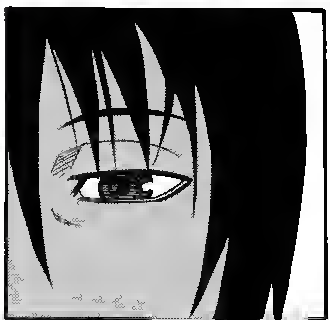
SAKURADA-SAN'S DINNER...
UH... THE NAME'S YULIJI YAMAGISHI. SAKURADA-SAN'S ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME AT WORK--
I'M GONNA GET CHANGED.
PLEASE HURRY!
HERE YOU GO.
TUNK
TH-THANK YOU.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING YOU JUST SAID AT THIS TABLE.
S-SORRY...
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT I'M AN ASSIS-TOR..!
CRAP, I SAID "WORK"!
HGCK!
THAT'S OKAY.
IT'S CONFIDENTIAL, RIGHT?

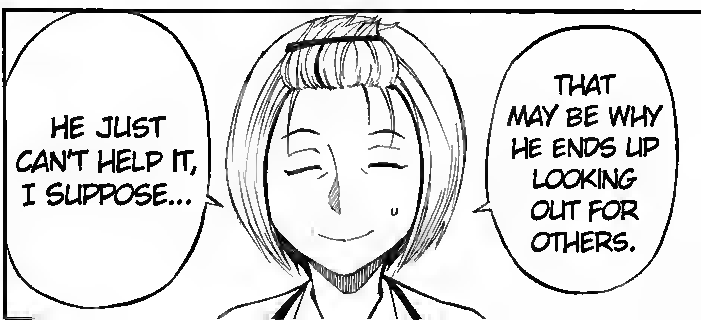

I DUNNO ABOUT TALENTED...
LOOKS LIKE HE WASN'T LYING.
Hee hee!
...THAT HE WORKS WITH A TALENTED YOUNG MAN WITH SHARP EYES.
MY HUSBAND TOLD ME...
...THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING ON MY MIND AT WORK.
COMPARED TO SAKURADA-SAN, WHO DOES EVERYTHING PERFECTLY...
YOU'D BE SURPRISED, YUUJI-SAN...
...BUT MY HUSBAND ISN'T ALWAYS AS COMPETENT AS YOU MAKE HIM OUT TO BE.
!
WHEN HE'S AT HOME ...?
THAT MAN BECOMES A RATHER DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN HE'S AT HOME.
"PERFECT"? OH, DEAR...


THIS IS ALREADY ON TOP OF A PAINFUL PAST HE BEARS AS AN ASSISTOR...
THERE ARE TIMES I'VE SEEN WHEN THINGS WEIGH HEAVILY ON HIS MIND.

...I FEEL A KIND OF SIMILARITY BETWEEN YOU AND MY HUSBAND.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT FORWARD OF ME TO SAY THIS, BUT...

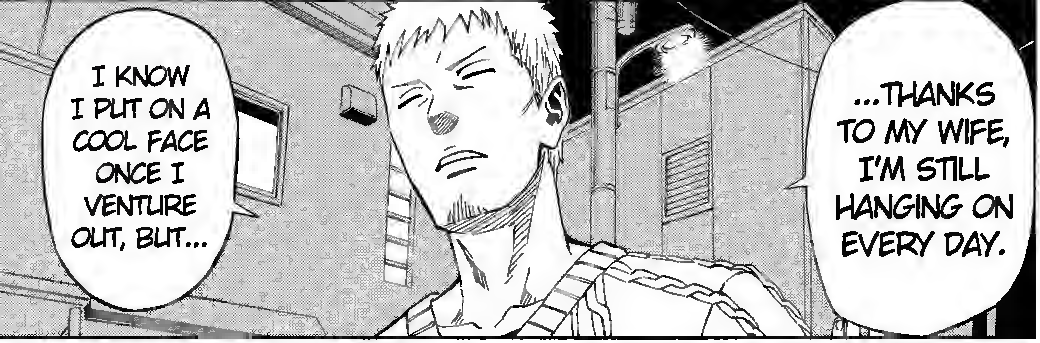
...SO I KNOW HE SHOULDERS A LOT EVERY DAY.
IF I WEREN'T THERE TO SUPPORT HIM EVEN A LITTLE BIT, WHO KNOWS WHAT DARK PLACE HE'D BE IN TODAY.




HE JUST CAN'T HELP IT, I SUPPOSE...
THAT MAY BE WHY HE ENDS UP LOOKING OUT FOR OTHERS.

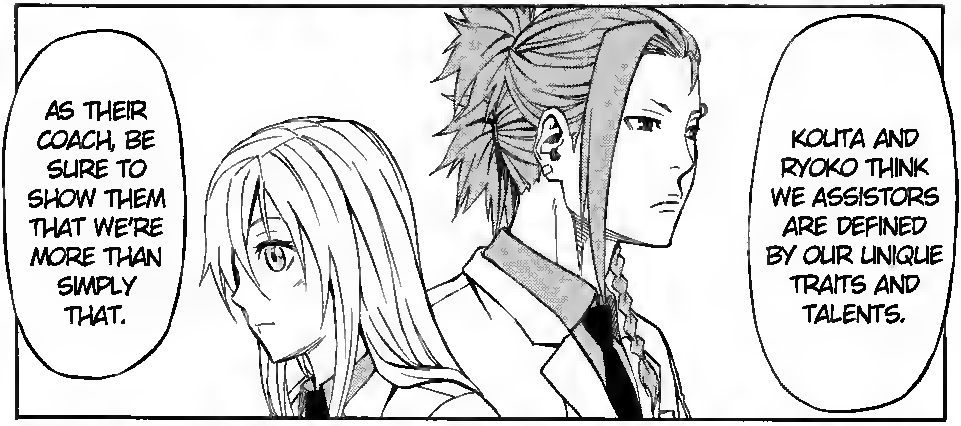
!
SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT.
!
THAT SWEATER LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, SAKURADA-SAN.
HMM... YOU THINK SO?
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT...
...I'LL GET SOME SNACKS READY WITH YOUR DRINKS.

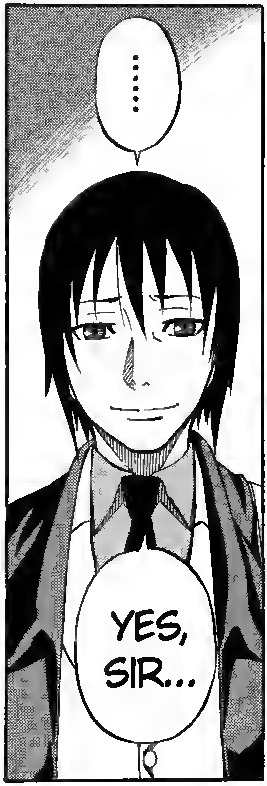
GRRRRRRRR
EEK
ER...BEER, PLEASE...
SO, DARLING... SAKE? BEER? SOMETHING ELSE...?
...SHE'S A GOOD WIFE.
HARDLY. YOU'VE DONE A LOT FOR ME, SO...
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU STICK AROUND THIS LATE.
...
WELL... A LOT'S GOING ON, BUT...
IF I HAD TO MARRY...
INTER-VIEWS FOR LIFE!


I KNOW I PUT ON A COOL FACE ONCE I VENTURE OUT, BUT...
...THANKS TO MY WIFE, I'M STILL HANGING ON EVERY DAY.

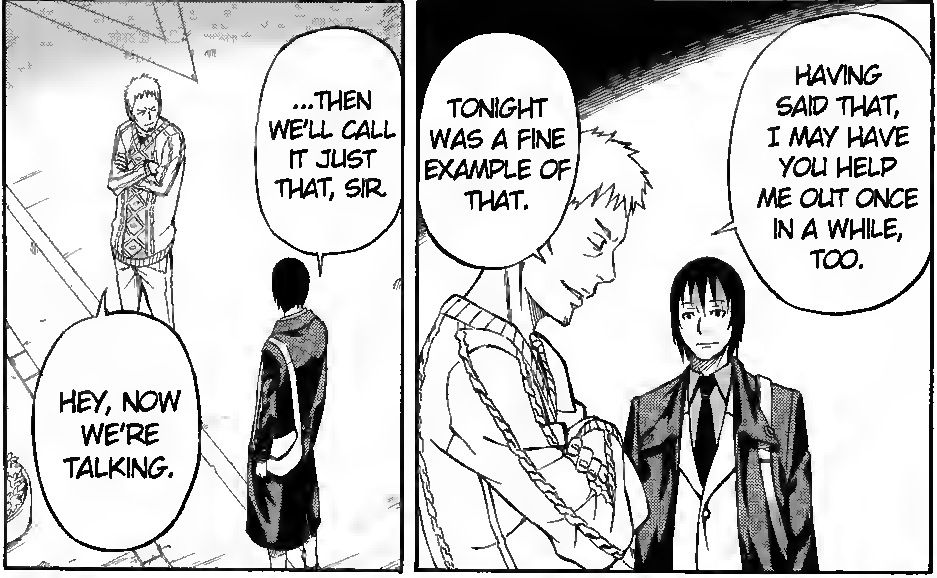
I'M ONLY HUMAN... SAME AS YOU.
...I WORRY, I SUFFER, AND I STRUGGLE TO OVERCOME IT ALL.

IT'S THE SAME WITH THE OTHER ASSISTORS...

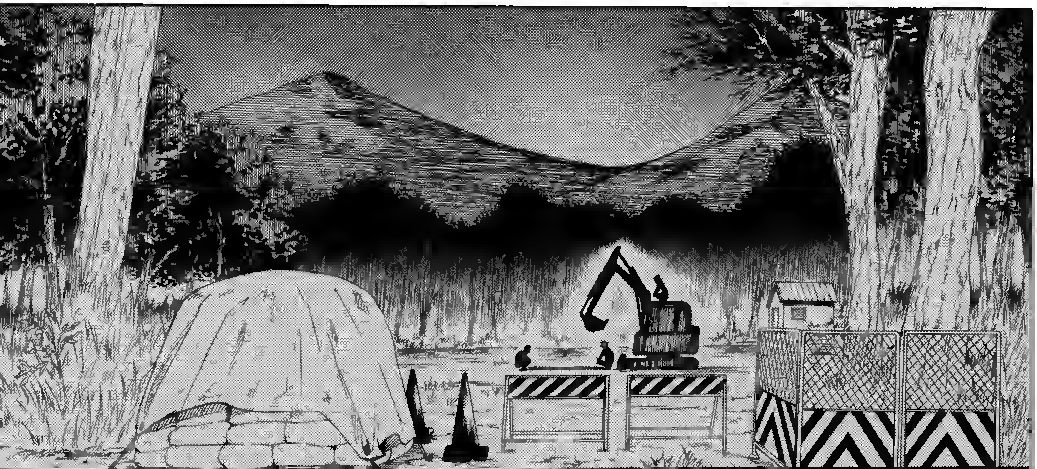

KOUTA AND RYOKO THINK WE ASSISTORS ARE DEFINED BY OUR UNIQUE TRAITS AND TALENTS.
AS THEIR COACH, BE SURE TO SHOW THEM THAT WE'RE MORE THAN SIMPLY THAT.


.....
YES, SIR...

...BECAUSE THEY RESPECT YOU AS THEIR SENPAI.
THEY'LL LISTEN TO YOU...


HAVING SAID THAT, I MAY HAVE YOU HELP ME OUT ONCE IN A WHILE, TOO.
TONIGHT WAS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THAT.
...THEN WE'LL CALL IT JUST THAT, SIR.
HEY, NOW WE'RE TALKING.

WE REALLY ARE ASSISTORS, AREN'T WE...
...HERO?



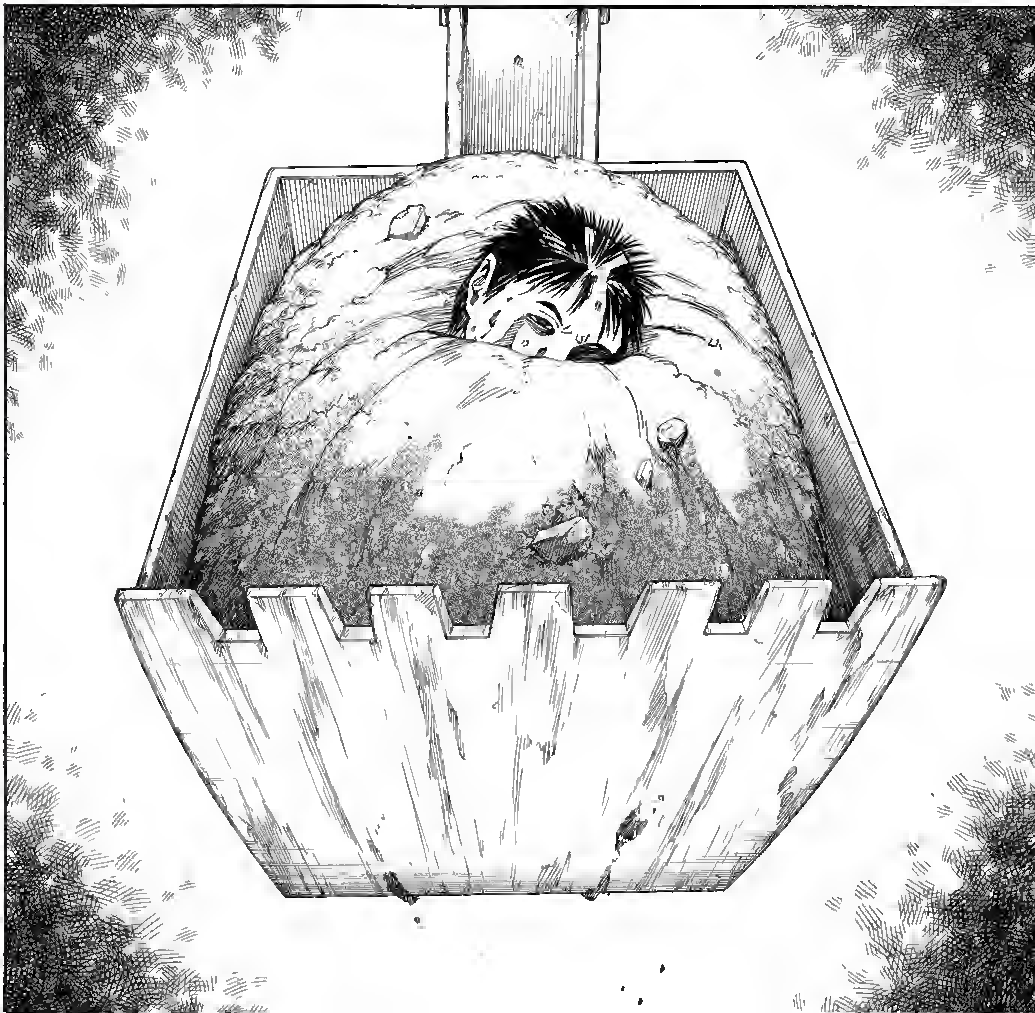
HM-MM...
WHADDYA SAY, JUDGE?
KOMAYASU
THERE YA HAVE IT.
P-PLEASE STOP!!
STOP?
BULLIES ARE GUILTY!
THERE-FORE, BONUS SENTEN-CING! DEATH BY RETALIA-TION, BABY!
BOING
ポヨーン

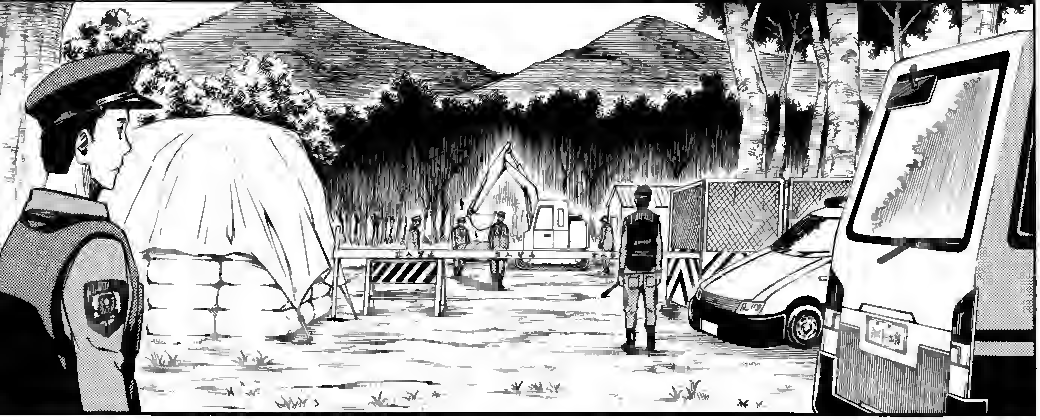
CUT THIS OUT!
I'LL... I'LL STOP BULLYING MASAKI-KUN!
I'LL PAY OUT MORE THAN WHAT I TOOK FROM HIM!!
SURE, BUT HE WENT TO AN ILLEGAL WEB SITE AND ASKED FOR HELP FROM THE BACK ALLEY ASSISTORS. AND Y'KNOW WHAT HE PAID US TO START?
500,000 YEN.
YOU BUMMED MASAKI-KUN OUT OF HIS MONEY, KNOWING HE'S BEEN BLACKLISTED FROM A BUNCH OF LENDERS.
SO I AIN'T CONVINCED THAT YOU DO HAVE THE CASH.
AND BESIDES, YOU PUSHED HIM INTO A PIT AND PARALYZED HALF HIS BODY.
YOU AIN'T GOT NUTHIN' TO SAY IN THE FACE OF JUSTICE.
ALL RIGHT, BACK ALLEY ASSIS-TORS! TIME TO EX-ECUTE!!
STOMP
STOMP
FWWRRRRM
OKAY!

STOP THIS!! YOU'LL KILL ME!!
WAIT-- YOU'RE KIDDING !!
KOMAYASU
HA HA HA!
KLUNK
STOP --!!
FTHUDD
KLUNK
KLUNK
WE AIN'T DONE YET!
SHUDDD
HELP --!!
THUDD
IT'S SO HEAVY!!

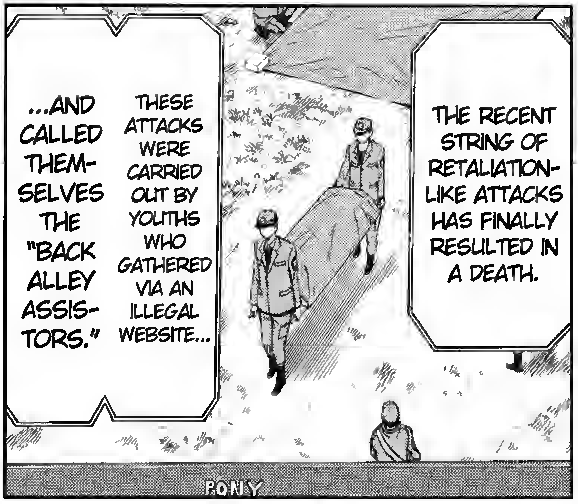
WE MIGHT KILL HIM FOR REAL!
DUDE ?!
……
……
YO…
……
I KNOW ALREADY !
HURRY !!
DAMMIT! DIG HIM OUT NOW!!
GTUNG
KOMATSU
WHAT'RE YA DOING?! HE'S GONNA SUFFO-CATE!
!
SHADDUP! I'M WORKING ON IT!
GWOOM
R-RIGHT!

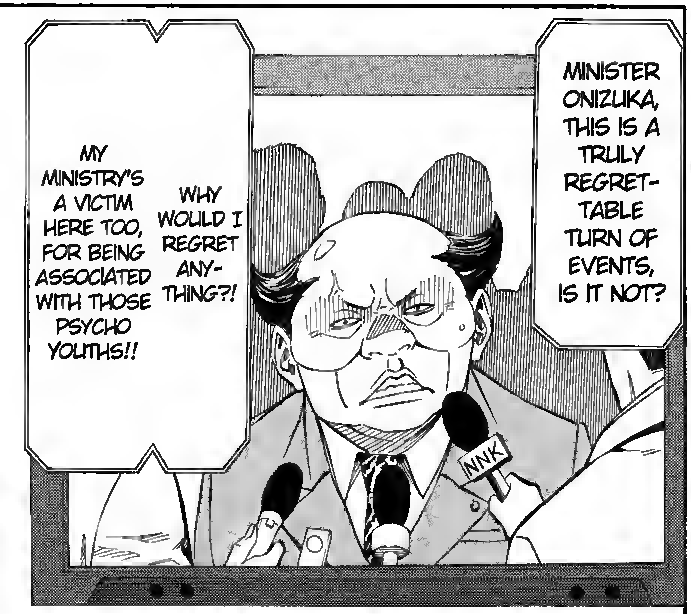
EYA-
AGH!

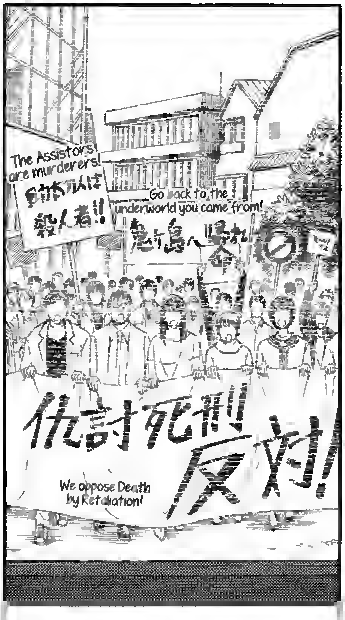




IT'S AN UTTER TRAGEDY.
I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD EVENTUALLY HAPPEN.
NNK


THE RECENT STRING OF RETALIATION-LIKE ATTACKS HAS FINALLY RESULTED IN A DEATH.
THESE ATTACKS WERE CARRIED OUT BY YOUTHS WHO GATHERED VIA AN ILLEGAL WEBSITE...
...AND CALLED THEMSELVES THE "BACK ALLEY ASSISTORS."
PONY


MINISTER ONIZUKA, THIS IS A TRULY REGRETTABLE TURN OF EVENTS, IS IT NOT?
WHY WOULD I REGRET ANYTHING?!
MY MINISTRY'S A VICTIM HERE TOO, FOR BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE PSYCHO YOUTHS!!
NNK

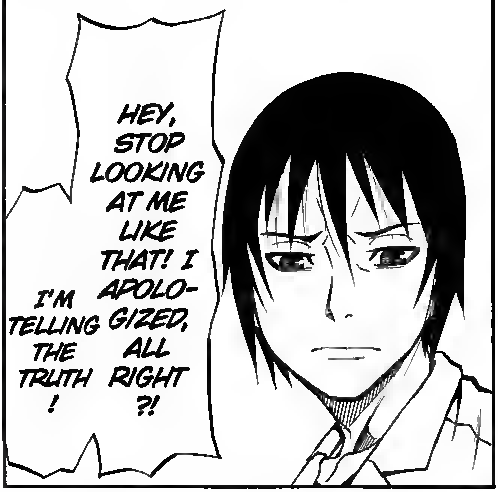

The Assistors are murderers!
Go back to the underworld you came from!
仇討死刑反対!
We oppose Death by Retaliation!

LOOK AT HIS FACE GO PALE IN THE SPOTLIGHT! HE'S LIKE A GHOST WITH STUBBY HORNS!
HA HA HA HA!
ON TOP OF THE MURDERS OCCURRING IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT...

WHEN LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE GATHER, THINGS ESCALATE BY THEMSELVES, AFTER ALL.
Heh heh heh.
I CERTAINLY DIDN'T PLAN FOR A LEADER TO JUST SHOW UP AND MAKE THE ENTIRE THING WORK LIKE THAT.
ALL I DID WAS CREATE AN ILLEGAL WEBSITE FOR "BACK ALLEY ASSISTORS," LIKE YOU ASKED ME TO.

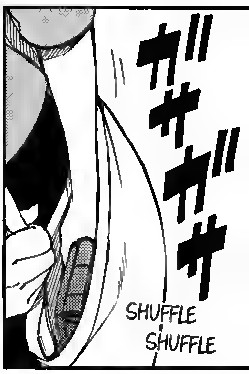
ALL THAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN IS THAT I BECOME THE NEXT MINISTER OF JUSTICE.
DON'T WORRY. MY FIELD OF VIEW IS DIFFERENT FROM YOURS.
KREE
キィ!!
THEN, WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL AS WELL.

KTUNK
コトーン
PLOP
HERE YA GO, ONE MIKE CHASHU RAMEN.
マイケッチらーめん
My Cook Ramen
...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...
助かるには殺人者!!
The Assistant is a murderer!!
Go back to the underworld you came from!
DID WE CAUSE THIS TO HAPPEN...?
!
SORRY FOR BEING LATE, YUUJI!
ガラ
RATTLE


HEY, STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT! I APOLOGIZED, ALL RIGHT?!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!

I FOUND THIS OLD 8 MM TAPE BURIED DEEP IN THE OFFICE ARCHIVES...
...AND I HAD TO REWRITE A WHOLE ARTICLE IN A HURRY!

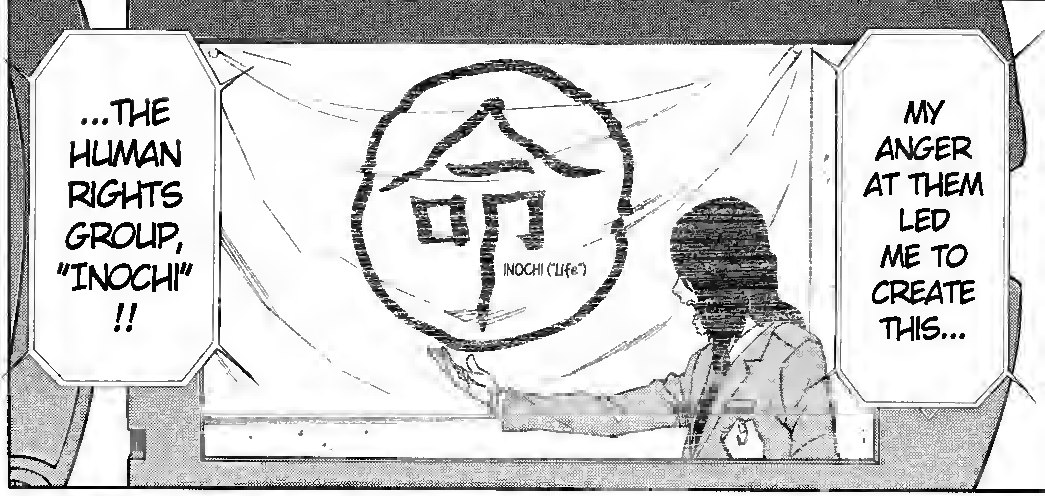
You got me wrong here.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!


SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN TAKE THAT OUT OF THE OFFICE?
BEEP
THIS MAY BE THE STUFF THEY NEED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MOVEMENT.
IT'S AN INTRO VIDEO FOR A GROUP THAT WAS AROUND 16 YEARS AGO.

THE WINDS ARE BLOWING! PEOPLE ARE RISING UP AGAINST THE RETALIATION ACT!
RRRRUMBLE

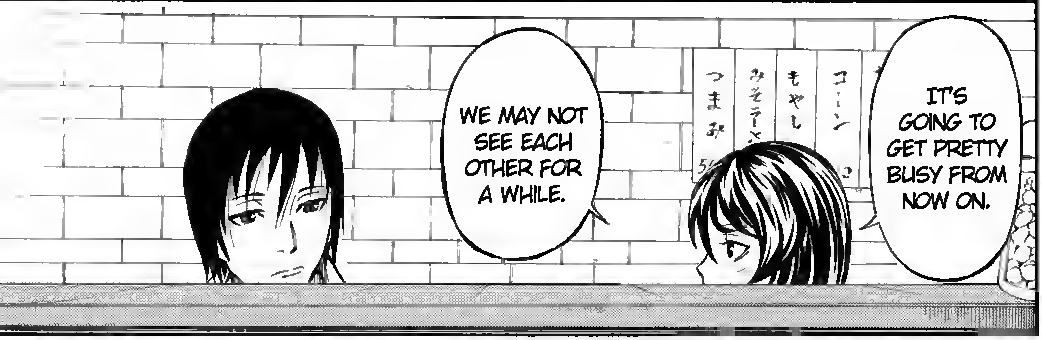
...THIS VOICE...
TAKE A MOMENT TO IMAGINE...
I'M NOT YOUR CAMERAMAN, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN EVEN CRAZIER--
BESIDES, I KNOW HOW PASSIONATE YOU ARE ABOUT YOUR JOB, BUT I WISH YOU WOULD STOP DRAGGING ME INTO YOUR ASSIGN-MENTS.
IT'S... DAD?!
INOCHI
YOU HEARD RIGHT! THE COURTS KILLED MY BROTHER!!
IMAGINE ONE DAY WHEN YOUR PRECIOUS BROTHER'S LIFE IS TAKEN FROM YOU, EVEN THOUGH HE'S INNOCENT!
THEN THIS VIDEO... IS FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP INOCHI...


...THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, "INOCHI" !!
INOCHI ("Life")
MY ANGER AT THEM LED ME TO CREATE THIS...

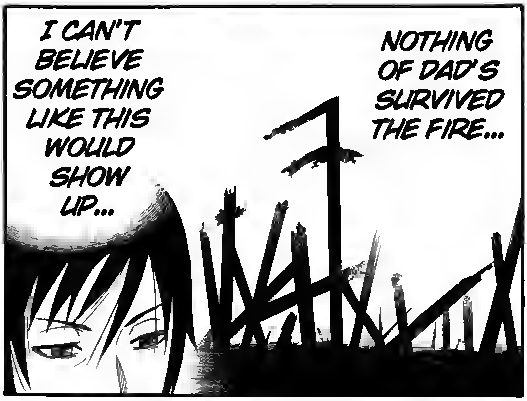
IGNITE THE TORCH OF LIFE!!
TO DO THAT, I NEED ALL YOUR STRENGTH! EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST ONE CITIZEN!

THE DEATH PENALTY IS PAIN AND VIOLENCE IN THE EXTREME.
THAT IS WHY I AM DETERMINED TO FIGHT TO RID THE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF IT!

IF THIS GROUP IS STILL AROUND, I WONDER HOW THEY'D FEEL ABOUT THE DEATH BY RETALIATION ACT.
I'D LIKE TO INTERVIEW THEIR MEMBERS, SEE IF THEY THINK THE ASSISTORS REPRESENT JUSTICE OR EVIL.
MAYBE THEY HAVE OTHER THOUGHTS, TOO.
KCHAK


WE MAY NOT SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE.
IT'S GOING TO GET PRETTY BUSY FROM NOW ON.

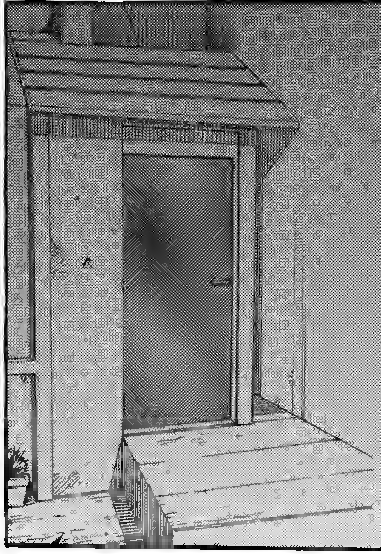
HEY YUUJI! ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?!
WHA ?!
UHH, YEAH...

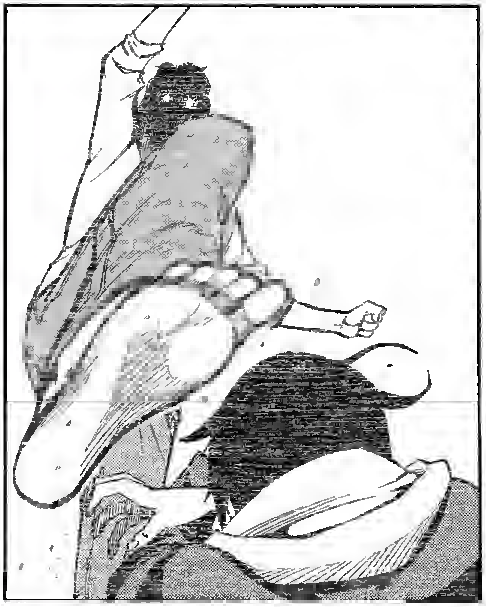

I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD SHOW UP...
NOTHING OF DAD'S SURVIVED THE FIRE...

PATAK
パシャン

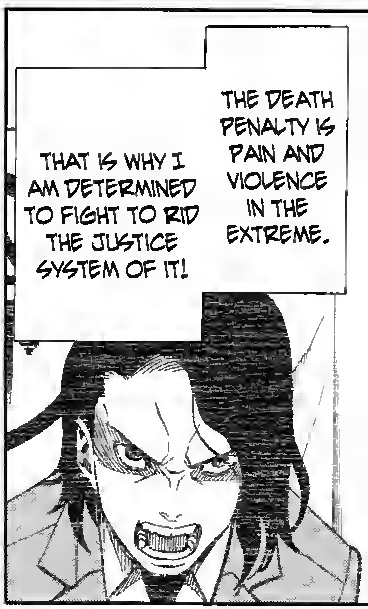
BREEEEP
プルルルル
OOP! PHONE CALL!
EDITOR IN-CHIEF

SO THAT'S WHAT'S UP— BYE!



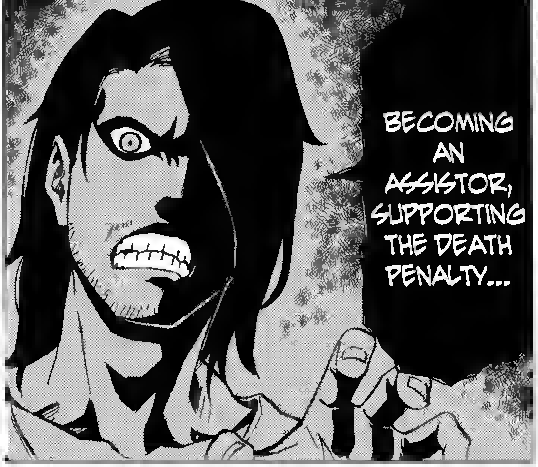


I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW DAD LOOK LIKE THAT BEFORE...


THE DEATH PENALTY IS PAIN AND VIOLENCE IN THE EXTREME.
THAT IS WHY I AM DETERMINED TO FIGHT TO RID THE JUSTICE SYSTEM OF IT!

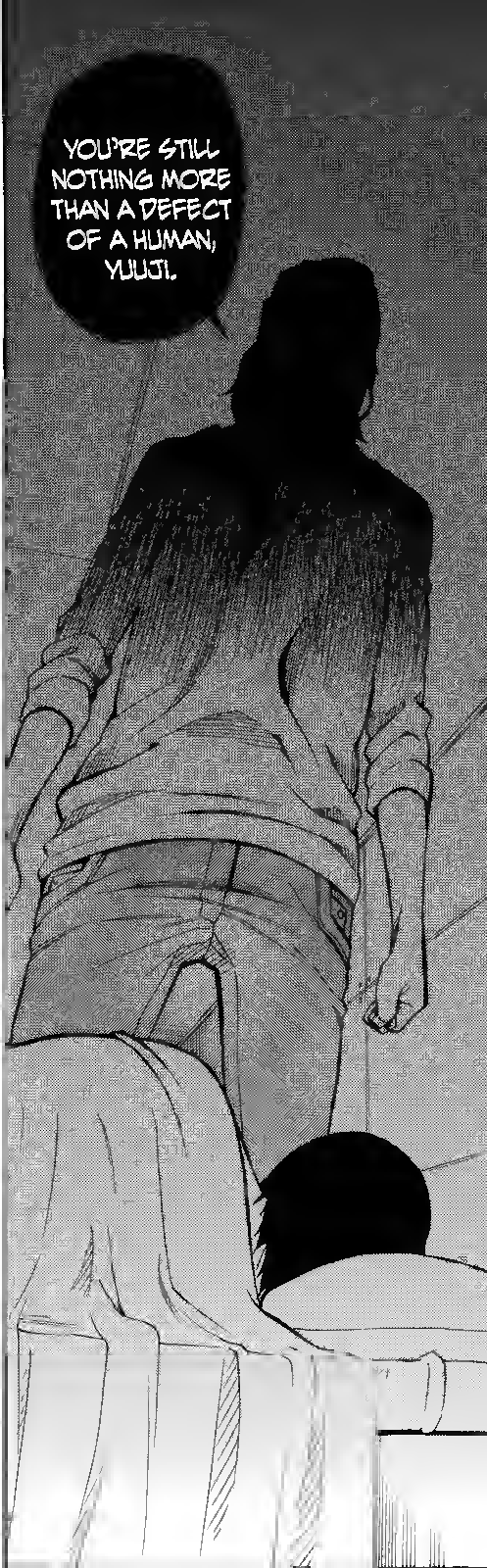
...THAT HE HAD TO TAKE IT OUT ON ME.
MAYBE... THE PAIN AND VIOLENCE HE COULDN'T SHOW TO THAT GROUP GOT SO PENT UP IN HIM...

...MAYBE NOW, IF I SAW HIM AS ANOTHER PERSON...
AS A FATHER, HE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN OBJECT OF FEAR TO ME, BUT...
...DID I REALLY JOIN THE ASSISTORS OUT OF MY OWN FREE WILL?
JUSTICE, OR EVIL... WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
ゴロン
ROLL
...THEN... I'D...
IF I HAD LOST MY BROTHER THE WAY DAD LOST HIS...
OR DID I SUB-CONSCIOUSLY CHOOSE THE PATH OPPOSITE WHAT DAD SOUGHT JUST TO SPITE HIM?

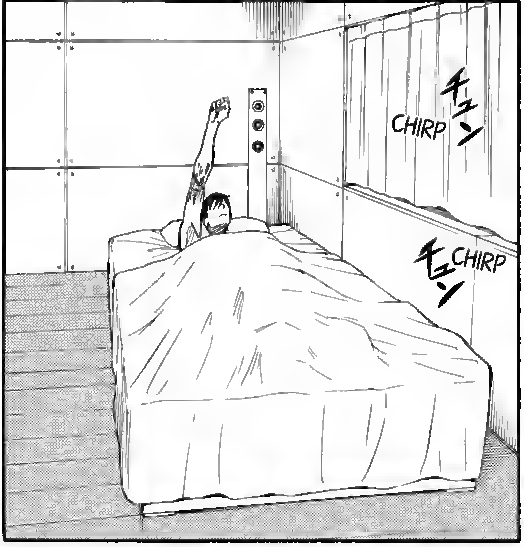

BECOMING AN ASSISTOR, SUPPORTING THE DEATH PENALTY...

GRAB

F-FATHER?!


YOU'RE STILL NOTHING MORE THAN A DEFECT OF A HUMAN, YUUJI.

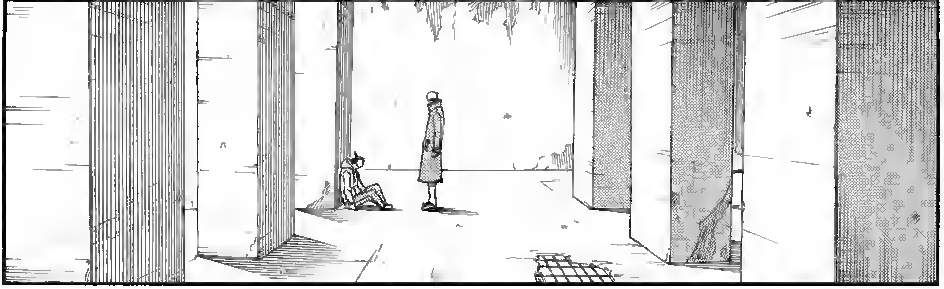
AND I... ARE DEAD!!
KLUD
AND YUU-ICHI!
IZUMI ! BE-CAUSE OF YOU ...!
STILL HAVEN'T KILLED ENOUGH ?!
CRAKK
BUT LOOK AT YOU! IS THIS IT?!
MURDER-ER?!

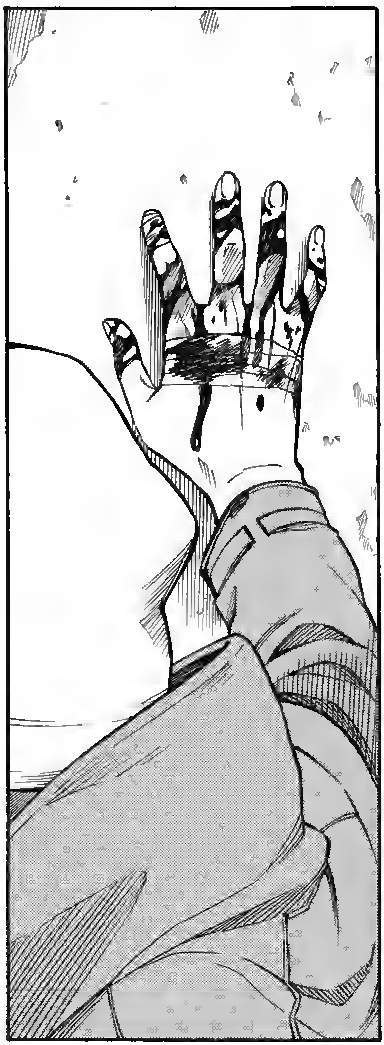

チュン
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP

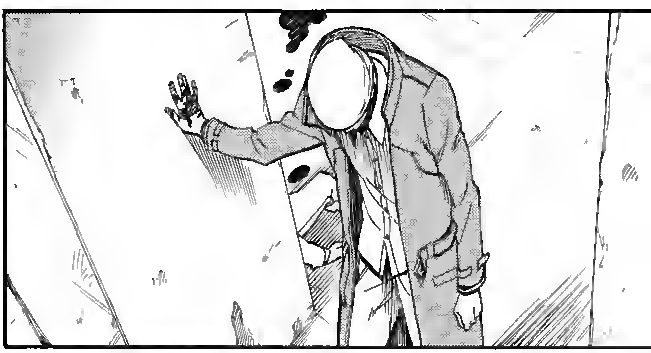
ジュワ
SIZZLE

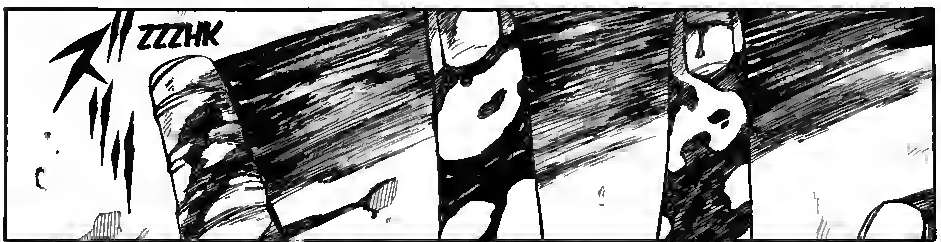
ビシュン
BWISH

PLIT
PLIT



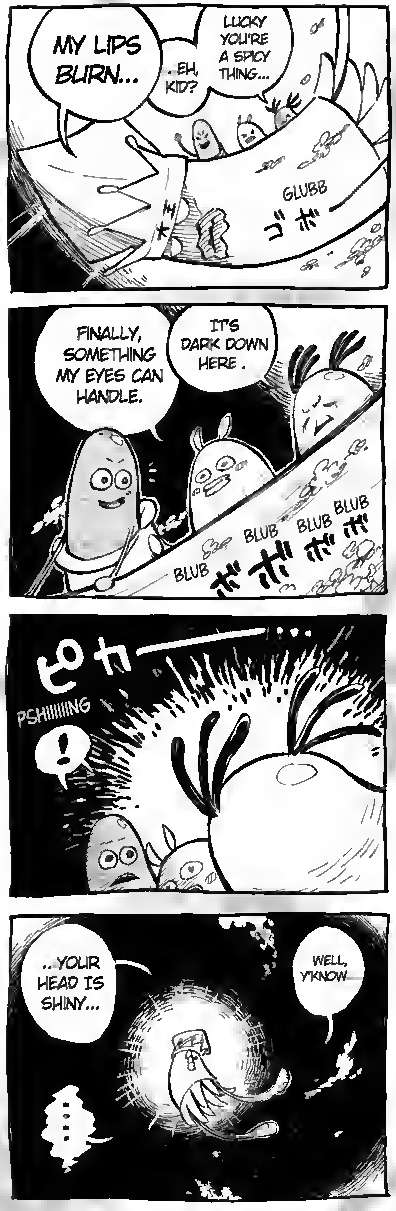





ZZZHK

ANOTHER MURDER HAS OCCURRED IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.
SHHHHHH
THE BODY HAS THE SAME STAB MARK IN THE CHEST AS THE OTHER VICTIMS--

A HALO



HOW TO REACH THE DEEP SEA

HEY, CAN YOU TAKE US ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE DEPTHS?
MEN-TAIKO
KYU-CHAN?! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. WE SHOULD FIND ANOTHER...
SURE THING, BUT I'D LIKE A BITE OF THAT MENTAIKO FIRST..
DROOL
IF I CAN ASSIST THESE TWO...
OKAY.
KYU-CHAN
SCHLOOP
THEN JUST A BITE...

English Digital Edition
Chapter 018

Sukedachi 09
助太刀09
Seishi Kishimoto

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